

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A tool for opening pull-tab closed containers characterized by a sealed container top having a failure line about the periphery of said top and having a tab permanently secured to said top adjacent a peripheral edge thereof, which tool comprises:

a. a **cylindrical** shaft with one end terminating in [a torque transmitting means] **means for transmitting torque thereto** and, at its opposite end, having a working end;

c. said working end having a **circular cross section and** a slot open to the end of said shaft and extending longitudinally along said shaft **with smooth unbroken side walls**, dividing said working end of said shaft into two longitudinal segments **having substantially equal, circular segmental cross sections having smooth, unbroken arcuate external walls;**

d. one of said longitudinal segments extending beyond the terminus of the other segment; and terminating in a blade tip having thickness less than the thickness of said one longitudinal segment.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The tool of claim 1 wherein said [torque transmitting means] **means for transmitting torque** comprises a handle which fixedly receives said shaft.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (previously presented) The tool of claim 2 wherein said slot has a length from 0.75 to about 1.0 inch and equal to or slightly greater than the width of said tab.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The tool of claim 3 wherein said slot has a width from 0.08 to about 0.13 inch and slightly greater than the thickness of said tab, whereby said tab can be loosely received in said slot.

Claim 6.(previously presented) The tool of claim 1 wherein said blade tip is flatted.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) The tool of claim 1 wherein said one end of said shaft is rotatably received in said handle and including an electric motor received within said handle and a gear box with an input shaft in driven connection to said motor and an output shaft fixedly secured to said one end of said shaft.

Claim 8. (withdrawn) The tool of claim 7 [6] including a rechargeable battery in electrical connection to said electrical motor.

Claim 9.(previously presented) The tool of claim 1 wherein said torque transmitting means comprises a plurality of longitudinal flats about said one end.

Claim 10..(previously presented) The tool of claim 1 wherein said one end has a hexagonal cross section.

Claim 11. (canceled)

Claim 12. (canceled)